National Aeronautics and Space Administration

the Space Place

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NEWS AND NOTES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS

The Space Place is a NASA website for elementary school-aged kids, their teachers, and their parents.

It's colorful!
It's dynamic!
It's fun!

It's rich with science, technology, engineering, and math content!

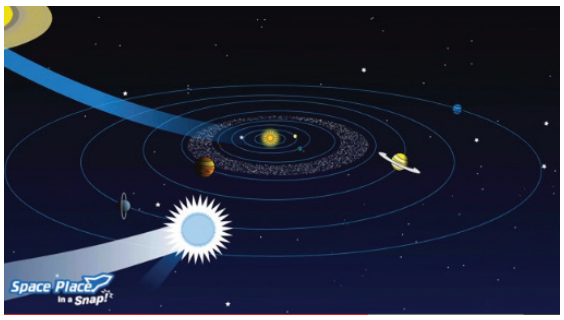
It's informal.
It's meaty.
It's easy to read and understand.
It's also in Spanish.
And it's free!

It has over 150 separate modules for kids, including hands-on projects, interactive games, animated cartoons, and amazing facts about space and Earth science and technology.

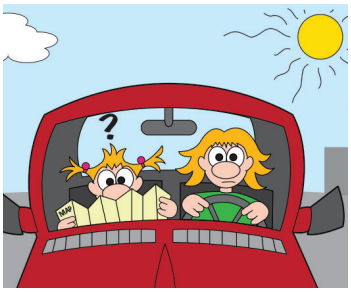
NASA's Space Place doesn't just bring you great educational material across a wide range of topics; it also presents that material in many different formats. From games and activities to articles and illustrations, we make it easy for students to learn in whatever format suits them best. This philosophy is the driving force behind our latest product—Space Place in a Snap. These pages combine animated videos with posters and reading material for a cross-disciplinary learning experience.

What's New? Space Place in a Snap!

Space Place is pleased to announce an entirely new and totally exciting product—Space Place in a Snap! These short animations provide quick narrated explanations of some of the most interesting science questions by taking you on a guided tour of an infographic. The best part: You can download a poster of the infographic after you watch the animation. We have already released our first "Snap"—How did our Solar System Come to Be? Check it out at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/solar-system-formation. Stay tuned for more "Snaps" in the very near future!



Space Place en Español: Loopy Legends



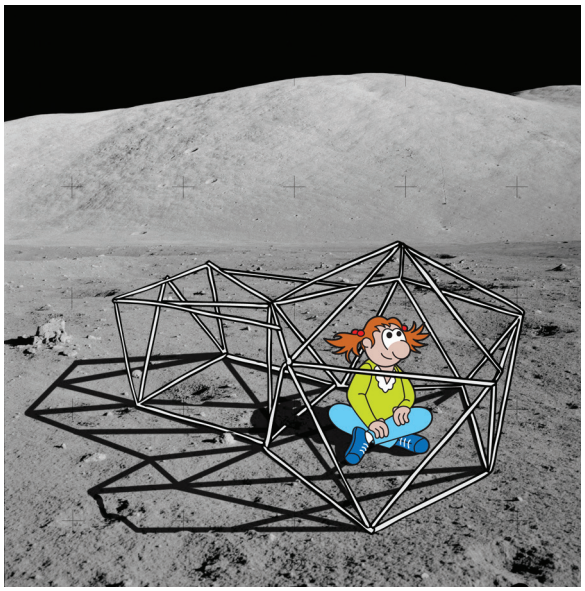
Why limit yourself to telling stories in only one language? Our popular mad-libs-style activity, "Loopy Legends," is now available in both English and Spanish. Kids get to create their own zany adventures in this web activity. You might find yourself traveling toward the center of a black hole. Or maybe you'll become lost because an angry sun's space weather knocked out some GPS satellites. Who knows, you might even go surfing on Jupiter's moon Titan! Check it out at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/loopy-legends/sp.

Spotlight on a Solar Mystery

The surface of the sun is a scalding 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit. But the sun's atmosphere can reach millions of degrees. That doesn't make too much sense, does it? Why would the stuff around the sun be warmer than the sun itself? And if the atmosphere were so hot, then why doesn't it warm the surface up to a temperature closer to the atmosphere? Check out one of Space Place's newest articles to learn more about this solar mystery. http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-corona.

For the Classroom

Looking for a hands-on activity that reinforces engineering concepts? Look no further than Space Place's moon habitat activity. Have you ever wondered what it would take for humans to have an extended stay on the Moon? Surely they would need some sort of place to live. But how would such a structure make the long journey through space? Learn all about what astronauts might want in their moon habitat. Then build your own! http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/moon-habitat.



For Out-of-School Time

How about an exciting web game to teach students all about solar weather in their out-of-school time? The sun is a scorching mass of hot gas that is constantly shooting energy and particles out into space. In "Shields up!" you must use a GOES-R weather satellite to detect the first signs of any crazy solar weather and warn other satellites to protect themselves before it is too late. http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/shields-up.

Special Days

January 1: New Year's Day. Galileo saw Saturn's rings through a telescope in 1610. Could a spaceship land on Saturn's rings? http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-solar-system.

January 11: Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific in 1935. How did her airplane stay up? http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/dr-marc-technology.

January 13: Galileo discovers Jupiter's moon Ganymede in 1610. Jupiter and Ganymede play tug o' war with little moon Io. http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/io-tides.

January 25: Mars rover Opportunity landed on Mars in 2004. Get the inside story on the latest Mars rover—Curiosity. http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/mission-chronicles/#milkovich.

February 6: Apollo 14 astronauts played golf on the Moon in 1971. See astronauts at work and play: http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gallery-technology/#astronauts.

February 12: Charles Darwin born this day in 1809. You will understand evolution of species after playing with the "Emoticonstructor." http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/emoticonstructor.

February 20: Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. Watch Space Place Live! and meet a woman engineer. http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/space-place-live/#douglas.

February 25: Quiet Day. Did you know the most violent events in space make no sound? Make a "Super Sound Cone," and listen for very tiny sounds. http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sound-cone.

Send Feedback

Please let us know your ideas about ways to use The Space Place in your teaching. Send to info@spaceplace.nasa.gov.